

**JESSICA LEIGHT**

International Food Policy Research Institute  
1201 Eye Street NW  
Washington DC, 20005  
J.Leight@cgiar.org

<b>PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE</b>	Senior Research Fellow, Poverty, Gender, and Inclusion Unit	2024-present	
	Research Fellow, Poverty, Gender, and Inclusion Unit International Food Policy Research Institute	2019-2024	
	Assistant Professor, American University Department of Economics	2017-2019	
	Assistant Professor, Williams College Department of Economics	2013-2017	
<b>PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS</b>	Member of the Editorial Board, PLoS One	2023-present	
	Member of the Editorial Board, BMC Public Health	2023-present	
	Co-Editor, China Economic Review	2021-present	
	Editor, Review of Economics of the Household Fellow, Federal Office of Evaluation Sciences	2021-present 2017-2019	
<b>EDUCATION</b>	Ph.D. in Economics	MIT	2013
	M.Phil. in Economics	Oxford University	2008
	B.A. <i>summa cum laude</i>	Yale University	2006
	Ethics Politics & Economics		
<b>FIELDS OF INTEREST</b>	Development economics, global health, gender, political economy		
<b>TEACHING EXPERIENCE</b>	Development microeconomics (Graduate), American University	2016-18	
	Economic development (Undergraduate), American University	2016-18	
	Microeconomics (Undergraduate), Williams College	2013-16	
	Political economy and development (Undergraduate / Master's), Williams College	2013-16	
	Economy of China (Undergraduate), Williams College	2013-16	
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>	Alderman, Harold, Daniel O. Gilligan, Melissa Hidrobo, Jessica Leight, Michael Mulford, and Heleene Tabet. 2025. "Men Can Cook: Effectiveness of a Men's Engagement Intervention to Change Attitudes and Behaviors in Rural Ethiopia." <i>World Development</i> 185: 106781.		
	Alderman, Harold, Daniel O. Gilligan, Jessica Leight, Tigist Mamo, Michael Mulford, and Heleene Tabet. 2024. "Including Scalable Nutrition Interventions in a Graduation Model Program: Experimental Evidence from Ethiopia." Forthcoming, <i>Economic Development and Cultural Change</i> .		

Leight, Jessica and Yao Pan. 2024. "Educational Responses to Local and Migration Destination Shocks: Evidence from China." Forthcoming, *World Bank Economic Review*.

Leight, Jessica, Daniel O. Gilligan, Michael Mulford, Alemayehu Seyoum Taffesse, and Heleene Tabet. 2024. "Aspiring to more? New evidence on the effect of light-touch aspirations interventions in rural Ethiopia." *Journal of Development Effectiveness* (2024): 1-14.

Gilligan, Daniel O., Melissa Hidrobo, Jessica Leight, and Heleene Tabet. "Using a list experiment to measure intimate partner violence: Cautionary evidence from Ethiopia." *Applied Economics Letters* (2024): 1-7.

Leight, Jessica, Daniel O. Gilligan, Kalle Hirvonen, Michael Mulford, and Haleluya Tesfaye. 2023. "The Impact of a Reduced Graduation Model Program on Child Nutrition in Rural Ethiopia: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial." Conditionally accepted based on pre-results review, *Journal of Development Economics*.

Edmonds, Eric, Benjamin Feigenberg and Jessica Leight. 2023. "Advancing the Agency of Adolescent Girls." *Review of Economics and Statistics* 105 (4): 852–866.

Björkman Nyqvist, Jessica Leight and Vandana Sharma. 2023. "Community Health Educators and Maternal Health: Experimental Evidence from Northern Nigeria." *The Journal of Development Studies* 59:1: 73-93.

Alderman, Harold, Daniel O. Gilligan, Jessica Leight, Michael Mulford, and Heleene Tabet. 2022. "The Role of Poultry Transfers in Diet Diversity: A Cluster Randomized Intent to Treat Analysis." *Food Policy* 107: 102212.

Leight, Jessica, Josué Awonon, Aulo Gelli, Rasmané Ganaba, and Abdoulaye Pedehombga. 2022. "How Light is too Light Touch: The Effect of a Short Training-based Intervention on Household Poultry Production in Burkina Faso." *Journal of Development Economics* 155: 102776.

Leight, Jessica, Josué Awonon, Abdoulaye Pedehombga, Rasmané Ganaba, Elena Martinez, Jessica Heckert, and Aulo Gelli. 2022. "The Impact of an Integrated Value Chain Intervention on Household Poultry Production in Burkina Faso: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial." *Journal of Development Effectiveness* 14:2, 108-124.

Adamopoulos, Tasso, Loren Brandt, Jessica Leight, and Diego Restuccia. 2022. "Misallocation, Selection and Productivity: A Quantitative Analysis with Panel Data from China." *Econometrica* 90: 1261-1282.

Bhanot, Syon, Benjamin Crost, Jessica Leight, Eric Mvukiyehe and Bauyrzhan Yedgenov. 2021. "Can Grants for Community Service Foster Social and Economic Integration for Youth? A Randomized Trial in Kazakhstan." *Journal of Development Economics* 153: 102718.

Erten, Bilge and Jessica Leight. 2021. "Exporting out of Agriculture: The Impact of WTO Accession on Structural Transformation in China." *Review of Economics and Statistics* 103 (2): 364–380.

Leight, Jessica. 2021. "Like Father, Like Son, Like Mother, Like Daughter: Intergenerational Transmission of Intrahousehold Gender Norms in Ethiopia." *World Development* 142: 105359.

Leight, Jessica. 2020. "Comment on 'The effect of migration policy on growth, structural change, and regional inequality in China', by Hao, Sun, Tombe and Zhu." *Journal of Monetary Economics* 113: 135-137.

Leight, Jessica and Elaine Liu. 2020. "Maternal Education, Parental Investment and Non-cognitive Characteristics in Rural China." *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 69(1): 213—251.

Leight, Jessica, Dana Foarta, Rohini Pande and Laura Ralston. 2020. "Value for Money: Vote-Buying and Politician Accountability." *Journal of Public Economics* 120: 104227.

Leight, Jessica and Nicholas Wilson. 2020. "Framing Flexible Spending Accounts: A Large-Scale Field Experiment on Communicating the Return on Medical Savings Accounts." *Health Economics* 29: 195–208.

Erten, Bilge, Jessica Leight and Fiona Tregenna. 2019. "Trade Liberalization and Local Labor Market Adjustment in South Africa." *Journal of International Economics* 118: 448–467.

Leight, Jessica. 2018. "The Impact of Positive Agricultural Income Shocks on Rural Chinese Households." *World Bank Economic Review* 34(1): 210-231.

Leight, Jessica. 2017. "Sibling Rivalry: Ability and Intrahousehold Allocation in Gansu Province, China." *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 65 (3): 457-493.

Leight, Jessica. 2016. "Reallocating Wealth? Insecure Property Rights and Agricultural Investment in Rural China." *China Economic Review* 40: 207-227.

Besley, Timothy, Jessica Leight, Rohini Pande and Vijayendra Rao. 2016. "Long-run Impacts of Land Regulation: Evidence from Tenancy Reform in India." *Journal of Development Economics* 118: 72-87.

**POLICY AND  
HEALTH  
PUBLICATIONS**

Tadesse, Elazar, Abdirahman, Ibrahim, Letta, Shiferaw, Kirby, Miles, Mamo, Tigist, Metaferia, Henok., Oranga, Beryl, and Jessica Leight. 2024. "Barriers to Appropriate Complementary Feeding and the Use of Ultra-processed Foods: A Formative Qualitative Study from Rural Oromia, Ethiopia." *Maternal & Child Nutrition* 20, e13576.

Leight, Jessica, Cullen, Cullen, Ranganathan, Meghna, and Alexa Yakubovich. 2023. "Effectiveness of Community Mobilisation and Group-based

Interventions for Preventing Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in Low- and Middle-income Countries: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis." *Journal of Global Health* 13.

Kappes, Heather, Toma, Mattie, Balu, Rekha, Burnett, Russ, Chen, Nuole, Johnson, Rebecca, Leight, Jessica., Omer, Saad B., Safran, Elana, Steffel, Mary, Trump, Kris-Stella, Yokum, Davod, and Pompa Debroy. 2023. "Using Communication to Boost Vaccination: Lessons for COVID-19 From Evaluations of Eight Large-Scale Programs to Promote Routine Vaccinations." *Behavioral Science & Policy* 9(1), 11–24.

Chimbutane, Feliciano, Catalina Herrera-Almanza, Naureen Karachiwalla, Carlos Lauchande, and Jessica Leight. 2023. "COVID-19 School Closures and Mental Health of Adolescent Students: Evidence from Rural Mozambique." *SSM – Mental Health* 3: 100203.

Leight, Jessica, Rasmané Ganaba, Abdoulaye Pedehombga, and Aulo Gelli. 2022. "The Relationship between Women's Empowerment and Mental Health: Evidence from Burkina Faso." *SSM – Mental Health* 2: 100160.

Leight, Jessica, Marcos Chissano, Elana Safran, Liza Ali, Domingos Dustan, and Julian Jamison. 2022. "The Effects of Text Reminders on the Utilization of Family Planning Services: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial in Urban Mozambique." *BMJ Global Health* 7: e007862.

Leight, Jessica. 2022. "Intimate partner violence against women: A persistent and urgent challenge" (Comment). *The Lancet* 399 (10327): 770-771.

Leight, Jessica, Vandana Sharma, and Negussie Deyessa. 2022. "Predictors of Discordance and Concordance in Reporting of Intimate Partner Violence: Evidence from a Large Sample of Ethiopian Couples." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 37 (23-24): NP23156–NP23179.

Leight, Jessica, Negussie Deyessa, Fabio Verani, Samuel Tewelde, and Vandana Sharma. 2021. "Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of an Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Intervention Targeting Men, Women and Couples in Rural Ethiopia: Evidence from Unite for a Better Life." *BMJ Open* 11: e042365.

Leight, Jessica, Catherine Hensly, Marcos Chissano, and Liza Ali. 2021. "Short-term effects of the COVID-19 State of Emergency on Contraceptive Access and Utilization in Mozambique." *PLoS ONE* 16(3): e0249195.

Leight, Jessica, Negussie Deyessa, Fabio Verani, Samuel Tewelde, and Vandana Sharma. 2021. "Community-level Spillover Effects of an Intervention to Prevent Intimate Partner Violence and HIV Transmission in Rural Ethiopia." *BMJ Global Health* 6: e004075.

Leight, Jessica and Nicholas Wilson. 2021. "Intimate Partner Violence and Maternal Health Services Utilization: Evidence from 36 National Household Surveys." *BMC Public Health* 21: 405.

Leight, Jessica, Negussie Deyessa, Fabio Verani, Samuel Tewelde, and Vandana Sharma. 2020. "An Intimate Partner Violence Prevention Intervention for Men, Women and Couples in Ethiopia: Additional Findings on Substance Use and Depressive Symptoms from a Cluster Randomized Controlled Trial." *PLoS Medicine* 17 (8): e1003131.

Sharma, Vandana, Jessica Leight, Fabio Verani, Samuel Tewelde, and Negussie Deyessa. 2020. "Effectiveness of a Culturally Appropriate Intervention to Prevent Intimate Partner Violence and HIV Transmission Among Men, Women and Couples in Rural Ethiopia: Findings from a Cluster Randomised Controlled Trial." *PLoS Medicine* 17 (8): e1003274.

Leight, Jessica and Elana Safran. 2019. "Increasing Immunization Compliance Among Schools and Day Care Centers: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial." *Journal of Behavioral Public Administration* 2(2): 1-15.

Sharma, Vandana, Jessica Leight, Nadège Giroux, Fatima Abdulaziz, and Martina Björkman Nyqvist. 2019. "That's a Woman's Problem": A Qualitative Analysis to Understand Male Involvement in Maternal and Newborn Health in Jigawa State, Northern Nigeria." *Reproductive Health* 16 (143).

Leight, Jessica, Vandana Sharma, Willa Brown, Laura Costica, Fatima Abdulaziz Sule, and Martina Björkman Nyqvist. 2018. "Associations Between Birth Kit Use and Maternal and Neonatal Health Outcomes in Rural Jigawa State, Nigeria: A Secondary Analysis of Data from a Cluster Randomized Controlled Trial." *PLoS ONE* 13 (12): e0208885.

Sharma, Vandana, Jessica Leight, Fatima Abdulaziz, Nadege Giroux, and Martina Björkman Nyqvist. 2017. "Illness Recognition, Decision-making and Care-seeking for Maternal and Newborn Complications: A Qualitative Study in Jigawa State, Northern Nigeria." *Journal of Health, Population and Nutrition* 36 (Suppl 1) 46: 59-96.

Sharma, Vandana, Willa Brown, Muhammad Kainuwa, Jessica Leight, and Martina Björkman Nyquist. 2017. "High Maternal Mortality in Jigawa State, Northern Nigeria Estimated Using the Sisterhood Method." *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth* 17 (163).

## **WORKING PAPERS**

*Economy of China and agricultural economics*

The Effects of FDI Liberalization on Structural and Demographic Change: Evidence from 25 Years of Policy Reform in China (Joint with Bilge Erten and Lianming Zhu) 2023. IZA Discussion Paper 16094.

Short-term and Long-term Effects of Cash for Work: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial in Tunisia. (Joint with Eric Mvukiyehe). 2023. IFPRI Discussion Paper 2184.

Can a Light-touch Graduation Model Enhance Livelihood Outcomes? Evidence from Ethiopia. (Joint with Harold Alderman, Daniel O. Gilligan, Melissa Hidrobo, and Michael Mulford). 2023. IFPRI Discussion Paper 2203.

Do Ultra-poor Graduation Programs Build Resilience Against Droughts? Evidence from Rural Ethiopia. (Joint with Kalle Hirvonen, Daniel O. Gilligan, Heleene Tabet, and Victor Villa). 2023. IFPRI Discussion Paper 2206.

*Human capital*

Effectiveness of a Couples' Intervention in Reshaping Intrahousehold Dynamics: A Qualitative Analysis from Ethiopia (Joint with Negussie Deyessa, Marjorie Pichon, and Vandana Sharma)

**RESEARCH IN PROGRESS**

The Effects of a Secondary School Scholarship on School Progression and Youth Outcomes in Ethiopia: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial (Joint with Daniel O. Gilligan and Michael Mulford)

Promoting Adoption of Sustainable Land Management Technologies by Women and Couples in Rural Ethiopia: Evidence from a Randomized Trial (Joint with Daniel O. Gilligan, Diana Lopez-Avila, and Heleene Tabet)

Evaluation of Group Problem Management Plus (Group PM+) Pilot Study in Oromia and Amhara Regional States, Ethiopia (Joint with Melissa Hidrobo, Harold Alderman, Negussie Deyessa, Daniel O. Gilligan, and Michael Mulford)

Building Pathways out of Poverty for Ultra-poor Internally Displaced People in Baidoa (Joint with Naureen Karachiwalla and Kalle Hirvonen)

The Effect of a Light-Touch Financial Planning Intervention on Women's Empowerment and Intimate Partner Violence: Evidence from Liberia (Joint with Simone Schaner and Sarika Gupta)

Can Entertainment Education be Used to Prevent Alcohol and Drug Use by Youth? (Joint with Laura Costica and Victor Orozco)

**FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS**

USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Affairs (Co-investigator, subcontract to World Vision, \$6 million)	2021
USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Affairs (Co-PI, subcontract to World Vision, \$499,998)	2021
Office of Evaluation Sciences Grant (PI, \$137,001)	2018
Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Young Scholar Grant (PI, \$20,000)	2018
World Bank Economic Review Excellence in Refereeing Award	2018
J-PAL Cash Transfers for Child Health (CATCH) Pilot Grant (Co-PI, \$33,605)	2018
Fondation de France Grant (PI, €30,600)	2017
Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Research Grant (PI, \$23,200)	2017
Anonymous grant (PI, \$299,963)	2017
Government of Tamil Nadu (Co-PI, \$360,615)	2016
J-PAL Post-Primary Education Initiative Grant (PI, \$2662)	2016

U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of International Labor Affairs Grant (PI, \$1,304,957)	2016 2015
J-PAL Governance Initiative Grant (PI, \$49,537)	2015
Government of Tamil Nadu (Co-PI, \$29,649)	
Macarthur Foundation Grant Grant (PI, \$345,000)	2014
USAID Democracy, Human Rights and Governance Grant (PI, \$42,185)	2014 2014
USAID Translating Research into Action Grant (PI, \$137,124)	2014
Anonymous Grant (PI, \$841,403)	
Harvard Weatherhead Center for International Affairs Grant (PI, \$20,700)	2014 2013
Fondation de France Grant (PI, €10,000)	2012
Macarthur Foundation Grant (PI, \$979,883)	
NBER Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in Aging and Health	2012
MIT Presidential Fellow	2012
Webb Medley Prize (proxime accessit): best M. Phil. performance	2010
Rhodes Scholarship	2008

**SEMINARS AND PRESENTATIONS**

2010-2012: NEUDC 2010, NEUDC 2012

2012-2013: Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, Duke University, University of Toronto, University of California – Santa Cruz, University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign, Barnard College, Williams College, Young Lives Conference

2013-2014: University of Washington China Studies Colloquium, World Bank Land Conference, Cornell Economics Department, Economic Demography Workshop at the Population Association of America, Midwest International Economics and Development Conference, Barcelona Graduate School Economics Forum: Economic Analysis of Voting Behavior

2014-2015: IFPRI Applied Microeconomics and Development, World Bank Governance Group, NBER China Workshop (discussant), USAID / IIE, Beijing University China Center for Economic Research, Center for Chinese Agricultural Policy at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Chinese Economists' Society Conference, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Western Economic Association, NBER Summer Institute (public finance and political economy)

2015-2016: University of Edinburgh Field Days, University of Minnesota Applied Economics, University of North Dakota, Swarthmore College, ASSA-Chinese Economists Society Session, University of Massachusetts – Amherst, Dartmouth College, RIDGE / LACEA-PEG Workshop on Political Economy

2016-2017: Hamilton / Colgate University, Northeastern University, World Bank Research Group (Microeconomics), George Mason University Interdisciplinary Center for Economic Sciences, American University School of International Service, Becker Friedman Institute Asian Family in Transition Conference (discussant), University of Washington, University of California – San Diego School of Global Strategy, University of California – Santa Cruz,

University of California – Davis, American University (economics, gender and economics), NEUDC, Middlebury College, Virginia Tech, York University - Toronto, University of California – Santa Barbara, Population Association of America, Oklahoma State University, RAND Health Lunch, IMF – Atlanta Federal Reserve Research Workshop on China’s Economy (discussant), Stockholm Institute of Transitional Economics, Asian Meeting of the Econometric Society

2017-2018: IFPRI Poverty, Health and Nutrition brown bag, World Bank Research Group (Trade), Chinese University of Hong Kong, American University School of International Service, Academia Sinica – Taipei, National Taiwan University, George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health, Wellesley College, Hunter College - CUNY, ASSA, Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development, World Bank – DIME, Center for Study of African Economies Annual Conference, Rocky Mountain Empirical Trade Conference, CEPREMAP India-China Conference at the Paris School of Economics, American Society of Health Economics Annual Conference, Institute of Political Science at the University of Duisburg – Essen

2018-2019: IMF – Atlanta Federal Reserve Research Workshop on China’s Economy (discussant), IMPAQ, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management conference, ASSA, George Mason University George Schar School of Policy and Development, Inter-American Development Bank D.C. Political Economy seminar, American Society of Health Economists

2019-2020: Third SANEM-World Bank North America Discussion Forum, Department of Labor International Labor Affairs Bureau, IMF-WB-OECD Conference on Strengthening Economic Resilience to Shocks, NBER China Workshop (discussant), Carnegie Mellon – NYU – Rochester Conference on Public Policy 2020 (discussant), Partnership for Public Service: Incorporating Behavioral Insights

2020-2021: NBER Summer Institute Gender in the Economy (recorded presentation), NEUDC, ASSA

2021-2022: ASSA (discussant), Africa Meeting of the Econometric Society, American Society of Health Economics

2022-2023: Lehigh University, IÉSEG School of Management, University of Göttingen, Cornell University, Harvard School of Public Health, Zhejiang University, Duke – Kunshan University, IIT – Calcutta, ASSA, Global Health Economics Seminar, Midwest International Economic Development Conference

2023-2024: Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Midwest International Economic Development Conference, American Society of Health Economists

2024-2025: George Washington University, Tufts University, New England Universities Development Conference, Dickinson College: Household

Economics in Developing Countries, IPA-Northwestern Researcher  
Convening, Universidad de Los Andes (scheduled)

**REFEREEING**

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Review: Insights, American Economic Review, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Applied Health Economics and Health Policy, BMC Global and Public Health, BMC Public Health, BMJ Open, BMJ Global Health, BMJ Public Health, China Economic Review, Demography, Econometrica, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economics and Human Biology, Economics of Education Review, Economic Inquiry, Economic Modelling, Economics of Transition, Feminist Economics, Food Policy, Frontiers in Public Health, Health Economics, Industrial and Labor Relations Review, International Economic Review, International Journal of Educational Development, IZA Journal of Labor Policy, Journal of African Economies, Journal of Behavioral Public Administration, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Development Effectiveness, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Family Violence, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Political Economy: Microeconomics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Rural Studies, Journal of Urban Economics, The Lancet, The Lancet: HIV, The Lancet Regional Health – Europe, Land Use Policy, Maternal and Child Nutrition, Mental Health & Prevention, Nature: Sustainability, Nutrition and Metabolic Insights, Paediatric and Perinatal Epidemiology, PLoS One, PLoS Global Health, Psychosocial Intervention, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Regional Science and Urban Economics, Reproductive Health, Review of Economics of the Household, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Studies, SAGE Open Medicine, Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Sexual and Reproductive Health Matters, Social Science and Medicine, Sociological Methods and Research, SSM – Mental Health, Structural Change and Economic Dynamics, Substance Abuse: Research and Treatment, Transnational Corporations, World Bank Economic Review, World Development

**GRANT  
REFEREEING**

J-PAL Governance Initiative, J-PAL Post-Primary Education Initiative, Economic and Social Research Council (U.K.), Center for Disease Control, World Bank DIME, Development Innovation Ventures, Austria FWF, Research Grants Council Hong Kong, European Research Council, Swiss National Science Foundation

**LANGUAGES**

Spanish (fluent), Mandarin Chinese (proficient)